

REMARKS

The Examiner has required an election in the present application between:

Species 1, illustrated in Figs. 1-5;

Species 2, illustrated in Figs. 5-7;

Species 3, illustrated in Fig. 8;

Species 4, illustrated in Fig. 9;

Species 5, illustrated in Fig. 10;

Species 6, illustrated in Fig. 11;

Species 7, illustrated in Fig. 12;

Species 8, illustrated in Fig. 13;

Species 9, illustrated in Fig. 14;

Species 10, illustrated in Fig. 15;

Species 11, illustrated in Fig. 16;

Species 12, illustrated in Fig. 17;

Species 13, illustrated in Fig. 18;

Species 14, illustrated in Fig. 19;

Species 15, illustrated in Fig. 20;

Species 16, illustrated in Figs. 21-22;

Species 17, illustrated in Fig. 23;

Species 18, illustrated in Fig. 24;

Species 19, illustrated in Fig. 25; and

Species 20, illustrated in Fig. 26;

For the purpose of examination of the present application, applicants elect Species 1, illustrated in Figs. 1-5 and in view of the new set of claims, it is considered that this species now includes Figs. 1-9, 13-17, and 20-26.

Accordingly, all the claims now presented are considered readable on the elected species. Upon allowance of the generic claim (claim 48), the Examiner is requested to rejoin the appropriate number of species in view of the fact that all the claims except claim 48 are dependent claims.

Also, in section 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner gave an informal anticipation rejection. This rejection was not identified by any statute nor was an explanation given. Furthermore, as the original claims have been cancelled, the Examiner's comments are not applicable to the new claims.

CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Elliot A. Goldberg, Registration No. 33,347 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Application No.: 10/500,551

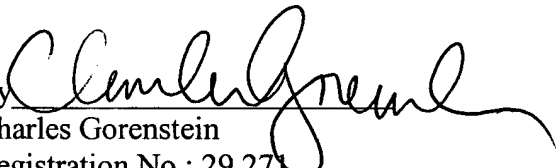
Docket No.: 2273-0104PUS1

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants hereby petition for an extension of one (1) month to January 4, 2006 in which to file a reply to the Office Action. The required fee of \$60.00 is enclosed herewith.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: January 4, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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